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1. Q. Have you ever been questioned by the MVD, and if so what information did you give them?

- A. I was questioned only once by the MVD and apparently I was able to satisfy them that I had no subversive intentions, for they never summoned me again. They seemed to be interested mainly in whatever contacts I and my family had had with the Germans in 1939, before we fled to the USSR, and questioned me closely concerning the activities of my nephew who was also residing in Prague. I believe that I was able to clear his name since they never interfered with him, and seemed satisfied with what I told them. After that they passed on to my own contacts with the German invaders in my home town [redacted] I replied to their queries that I had been interrogated by the Gestapo, and then they wished to know as much as I could tell them about the operations of the German secret police. I recall that I told my MVD ques-

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on the part of the Gestapo seemed to convince the MVD that I was entirely harmless, for as I mentioned above, they did not molest me in any way after this single interview.

2. Q. Please tell in your own words everything that you know about passports, including internal passports and those used for travel outside the USSR.

- A. Everyone in the USSR must have a passport and carry it at all times. The only people not required to have them are the peasants on the collective farms, but even they must obtain them if they travel anywhere at all. Passports are divided into two classes; those issued to persons of assured loyalty to the government, and those given to persons who are generally by reason of their birth regarded with any degree of suspicion. In the first and privileged category are the sons of workers, party

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officials and peasants who have good socialist records. Passports of the second group are exactly like the first except that they contain an added paragraph, stating the limitations imposed on the bearer. They are issued to such persons as the sons of former businessmen and industrialists, and do not permit them to live in large cities or in any place within 100 miles of a frontier. These unfortunates are checked by the MVD at frequent intervals, although, of course, all people are subject to both regular and sporadic checks. Both of these two groups of passports are issued for five-year periods. Foreign residents, [redacted] are given passports "without citizenship", which also limit places in which one may live. These passports are at first issued for three-month periods, but later have to be renewed only once a year.

3. Q. Were there any regulations requiring a person to register for any reason?

A. Since no private citizen or refugee had any firearms or radios (during World War II) no registration for such items was required. I owned a camera but did not have to register it, although regulations forbade me to take any photographs or exposed film out of the Soviet Union. There were among the exiles in Frunze a number of former Communist Party members, and also a great many people of the intellectual class, and many who had been sent there in the period of collectivization and in the purge of 1937. These people had to register with the MVD three times a month during the war, but in peace time only once a month.

4. Q. What were the regulations concerning food rationing and what documents were necessary?

A. Bread was the only item rationed during my stay in Frunze, because such other staples as sugar, meat and coffee were simply not available. The rationing was well organized and one received one's quota by presenting one's passport to the dispensing official. People working in plants, schools, and hospitals received an allowance of 400 grams a day. Even this inadequate allotment, however, was denied to such people as farmers, and the rest of us were permitted to use one-acre tracts as garden spots to supplement our meagre bread ration. A very small group of especially favored people, which in 1943 consisted only of privileged Party members, but in 1945 was broadened to include such persons as more important professors, was given a larger ration and also some sugar and fats. These were given ration books to be used at special stores.

5. Q. Did you have to register to obtain employment, and if so was there any documentation with reference to employment?

A. Everyone in the USSR must work in order to eat, and even so there was a skilled labor shortage in Frunze during the war years. About 50 per cent of the most urgent needs were for teachers in the training schools and in positions calling for technical personnel. I believe the MGB assigned such workers to places where they were most needed without regard to individual preference. In order to obtain employment as a teacher, I had to register with the Union of Polish Patriots, an organization dominated by Communist Party members which worked closely with the MGB and MVD. Every worker had to have a work book which was a daily record of the amount of work done and proficiency shown. [redacted] required to make out a plan of instruction for each day for the school principal and to [redacted] carried it out. [redacted] the direct and watchful supervision of the principal, who was in turn carefully checked by the Oblast Inspector.

6. Q. In crossing the border what regulations were in effect regarding your departure? Were any documents required and at what point did you leave the USSR?

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- A. I crossed the frontier near the former Polish city of Luck which was the last Soviet town through which I passed. At the border our train pulled up on a raised platform and a squad of Border troops came aboard, to perform the final required checks on us and our possessions. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The troops inspected this document and then required me to give up all my Soviet currency, specifying that I would be reimbursed with an equivalent amount of Polish money. I had with me about four thousand rubles which I relinquished, but I never received any Polish money in return. Their final task was to take up my Soviet passport and to remove vestiges of my work in the USSR.

7. Q. Can you give any information concerning the regulations governing travel in the USSR, particularly the documents required and examination of them?
- A. Prior to 1941 no documents were required for travel inside most parts of the USSR, but after the German invasion permits were required. I was told that in the pre-World War II period it was not too difficult to travel in the country. The travel permits necessary for all civilians were issued by the MVD and were extremely difficult to obtain, and were given only upon the presentation of very good reasons by the application. Even so inspection of these documents once the traveler was aboard the train was at best sporadic and consequently it was possible, although dangerous, to travel without them.
5. Q. What areas do you know of which are restricted, and what restrictions are there with respect to residence?
- A. In each place where I resided in the Soviet Union there are areas which are restricted to those authorized to visit or work in the area. All others, both Soviet and foreign, are forbidden to approach them. Such areas generally contain military installations, staff or MVD headquarters, and offices of the various ministry. They are guarded by Interior Troops and no one ever asks any questions regarding them. As to restrictions concerning place of residence there are none except for those places which are reserved for officials or workers in a particular office or plant. As is well known, housing of even the most primitive variety is at a premium throughout the USSR, and I had great difficulty everywhere in finding a place, however squalid, in which to live. As soon as one finds a room or apartment he must report to the MVD and register his residence, and naturally all absences must be reported also.
9. Q. What customs control was exercised at the border including search of baggage?
- A. As I mentioned above we were processed at the border by a unit of the Frontier Troops and in addition to inspection of our papers, and relinquishing Soviet currency, we had to declare certain items in pain of three years' imprisonment. No intensive search of our luggage was conducted, probably because in addition to the food we required for our journey and our few clothes, our possessions were pitifully meagre. We had no printed material, or photographs of buildings or terrain, or diaries which are on the forbidden list.
10. Q. What regulations were in effect concerning the possession of firearms, photographic equipment and radios?

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A. As far as I know only police and soldiers had firearms, since I never heard of any private individual having them, and certainly there were no guns or pistols for sale in the stores. All radios were taken up at the beginning of the war but after the cessation of hostilities it was again possible to buy them if any were available and one could pay the price which was, I think, about 500 rubles. Very few, however, were offered for sale, but those I saw seemed to be fairly good and had short-wave bands. Cameras were sometimes available on the black market, but only the privileged few could purchase them in the stores. Naturally, photographers were quite restricted in their activities, and it was wise to limit one's subjects to persons rather than to places or scenery.

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